



CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Adult Antibiotic Wound Management Guidelines for the Emergency Department

A guideline is intended to assist healthcare professionals in the choice of disease-specific treatments.

Clinical judgement should be exercised on the applicability of any guideline, influenced by individual patient characteristics. Clinicians should be mindful of the potential for harmful polypharmacy and increased susceptibility to adverse drug reactions in patients with multiple morbidities or frailty.

If, after discussion with the patient or carer, there are good reasons for not following a guideline, it is good practice to record these and communicate them to others involved in the care of the patient.

Version Number:	5
Does this version include changes to clinical advice:	Yes
Date Approved:	22 nd July 2020
Date of Next Review:	31 st August 2023
Lead Author:	Ysobel Gourlay
Approval Group:	Antimicrobial Utilisation Committee

Important Note:

The Intranet version of this document is the only version that is maintained. Any printed copies should therefore be viewed as 'Uncontrolled' and as such, may not necessarily contain the latest updates and amendments.

Emergency Department Adult Antibiotic Wound Management Guidelines

Human or Animal Bite

Wound Management

1. Thorough wound toilet and debridement where necessary.
2. If human bite refer to GGC blood borne virus protocol <https://www.nhs.gov.uk/your-health/public-health/public-health-protection-unit-phpu/bloodborne-virus/for-staff-occupational-exposure-to-bbv/>
3. Consider tetanus status <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/tetanus/> or Public Health England (PHE) Green book, chapter 30 n8-10

Clinically infected

Yes

1. Swab
2. Treat as per GG&C policy

No

Antibiotic prophylaxis indicated if any of the following are present:

- Hand, wrist, foot, face or genital wound
- Crush wound with devitalised tissue
- Previously sutured wounds
- Full thickness wounds involving tendons, ligaments and joints
- Immunosuppressed (including asplenia, liver disease, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, high dose steroids e.g. > 15mg/ day for > 2 weeks)
- Patients with prosthetic joints / heart valves
- Post Mastectomy
- Delayed presentation >8 hours (NB. Antibiotics are not required if the wound is > 2 days old and there are no signs of local or systemic infection)
- Pre-existent or resultant oedema of the affected area
- Moderate to severe bite (clear full thickness skin puncture or tissue loss)
- Cat bites

Treatment / Prophylaxis:

ORAL Co-amoxiclav 625mg 8 hourly

Or if true penicillin allergy

ORAL Doxycycline 100mg 12 hourly
and

ORAL Metronidazole 400mg 8 hourly

Treatment

Duration 5 days

PROPHYLAXIS

Duration 3 days

For severe bites see GGC Infection management guidelines

Emergency Department Adult Antibiotic Wound Management Guidelines

Abdominal Wounds

Clinically Infected

Yes or Surgical referral indicated

No

Antibiotics must be given if surgical referral indicated

Treatment:

IV Co-amoxiclav 1.2g 8 hourly

Oral switch:

Co-amoxiclav 625mg 8 hourly

Or if true penicillin allergy

IV Clindamycin 600mg 6 hourly

and

IV Gentamicin (dose as per NHSGGC
Gentamicin treatment guideline,
maximum 4 days)

Oral switch:

Clindamycin 600mg 8 hourly

and

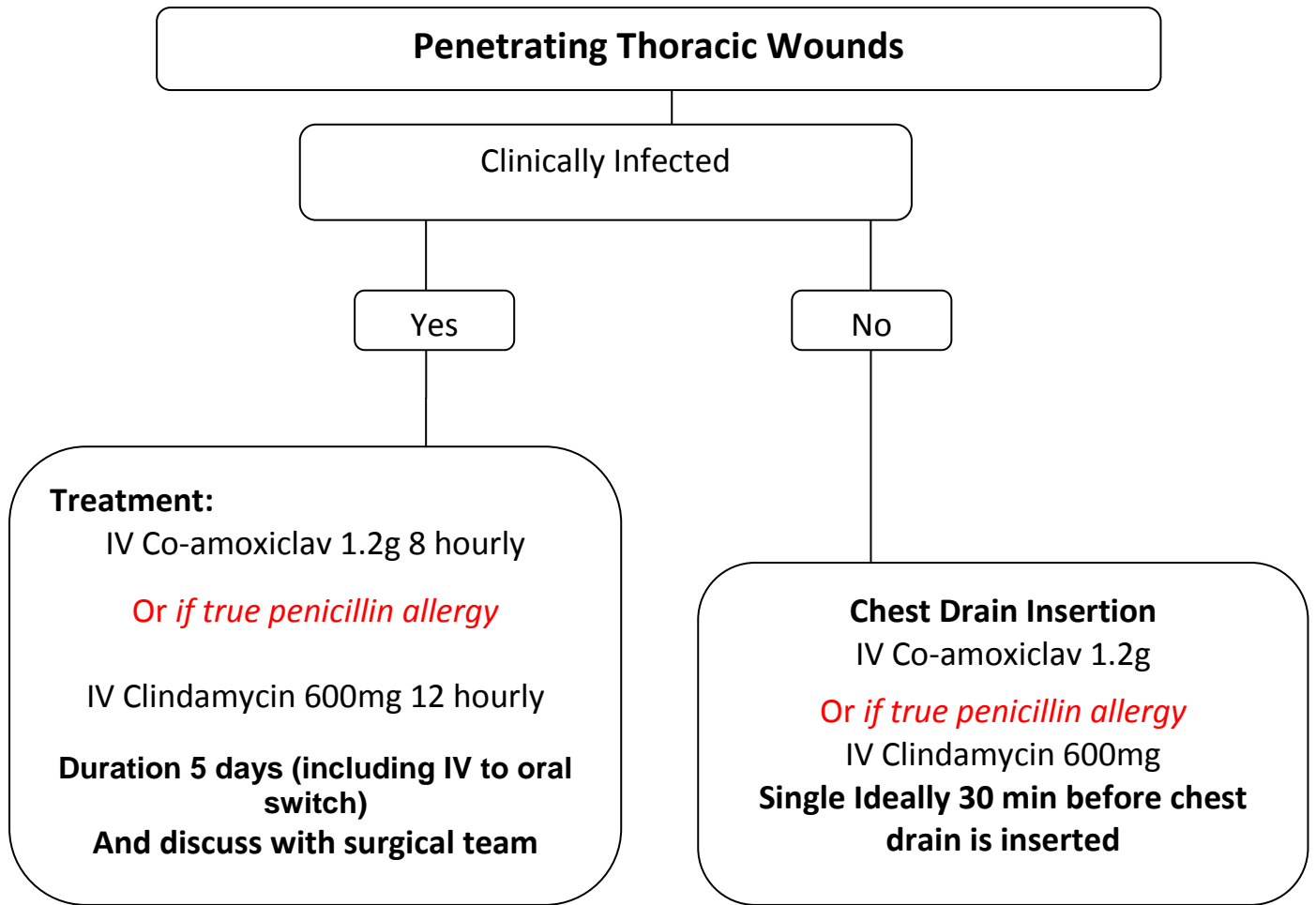
Co-trimoxazole 960mg 12 hourly

**Duration 5 days IV/PO but
dependent on clinical review**

Superficial wound only
Antibiotic Prophylaxis: Not
recommended

**Superficial wound infection (Senior
Decision required)**
Oral flucloxacillin 500mg 6 hourly
Duration 5 days

Emergency Department Adult Antibiotic Wound Management Guidelines



- **Compound Fractures** see orthopaedic guidelines (<http://www.staffnet.ggc.scot.nhs.uk/Info%20Centre/PoliciesProcedures/GGClinicalGuidelines/GGC%20Clinical%20Guidelines%20Electronic%20Resource%20Direct/Orthopaedic%20%20Surgical%20Prophylaxis%20Guidelines.pdf>)
- **Polytrauma** , antibiotics not routinely indicated
- Intercostal drains; there is an NHSGGC guideline here: <http://www.staffnet.ggc.scot.nhs.uk/Info%20Centre/PoliciesProcedures/GGClinicalGuidelines/GGC%20Clinical%20Guidelines%20Electronic%20Resource%20Direct/Chest%20Drain%20Guideline,%20NHS%20Greater%20Glasgow%20and%20Clyde.pdf>